

Office of Public Instruction

Biographies

Denise Juneau, Superintendent of Public Instruction

Denise Juneau became Superintendent of Public Instruction on January 5, 2009. She previously served as a Division Administrator at the Office of Public Instruction, overseeing the Indian Education for All program and working on student achievement issues.

Denise taught high school English both in New Town, North Dakota and Browning, Montana. Denise also graduated from law school at the University of Montana and clerked at the Montana supreme court. Working in both the education and legal professions has sharpened her principles for fairness, integrity, and respect for others.

Denise is the first American Indian to serve in a statewide executive level office. She graduated from Browning High School, in Browning MT. She earned her Bachelor's Degree in English from Montana State University; her Master's of Education Degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education; and her Juris Doctorate from the University of Montana. In 2009, Denise was selected as Educator of the Year by the the National Indian Educator Association.

Denise credits Montana teachers with showing her that she could achieve her dreams and goals, and is grateful for their lessons. She is honored to serve as Montana's Superintendent of Public Instruction and looks forward to continuing her work with Montana's schools and education community, for the benefit of all students. Contact Denise at 406.444.5658 or opisupt@mt.gov

Dennis Parman, Deputy Superintendent

Dennis has over 29 years of education experience and has served as District Superintendent, Shelby Public Schools, and most recently as Superintendent of Havre Public Schools. Contact Dennis at 406.444.7325 or dparman@mt.gov

Madalyn Quinlan, Chief of Staff

Madalyn has worked for the Office of Public Instruction for eighteen years. She previously served as Chief of Staff for State Superintendent Linda McCulloch and Nancy Keenan where she focused on coordinating OPI's legislative agenda, supervising OPI's communication function, and providing leadership support to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Contact Madalyn at 406.444. 3168 or mquinlan@mt.gov

Ann Gilkey, Chief Legal Counsel

Ann recently worked as the Equal Justice Coordinator for the State Bar of Montana. She served as program specialist for the Montana Supreme Court Assessment program and was Adjunct Professor at the University Of Montana School Of Law. Prior to joining the Montana Supreme Court, Ann held various positions including Supervising Attorney, Department of Public Health and Human Services and Chief Legal Counsel for the Department of Family Services. Contact Ann at 406.444.4402 or agilkey@mt.gov

Jessica Rhoades, Director of Communications

Jessica has over 10 years of communications, public affairs, and political experience. She recently served as Communications Director and a policy advisor to the Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. Prior to her work at the Auditor's office, she led the public affairs efforts for a national non-profit organization in the northwest and has served as Communications Director for the Montana Democratic Party. Contact Jessica at 406.444.3160 or jrhoades@mt.gov

Judy Snow, State Assessment Director

Judy is currently State Assessment Director. Prior to joining OPI, Snow served as an Adjunct instructor for the University of Great Falls and taught public school in Great Falls, Montana. Judy served on numerous organizations including the American Association of University Women, where she founded and directed a summer computer camp for middle school girls. Contact Judy at 406.444.3656 or jsnow@mt.gov

Joyce Silverthorne, P-20 Policy Advisor

Most recently, Joyce served as the Tribal Education Department Director for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. She worked as the Bilingual Education Director for the Salish Kootenai Tribal College, Two Eagle River School, and was a gubernatorial appointee to the Montana Board of Public Education for 10 years. She was 2008 Tribal Education Department National Assembly (TEDNA) Director of the year and 2004 National Indian Education Association Educator (NIEA) of the year. Contact Joyce at 406.444.3449 or jsilverthorne@mt.gov

Deborah Halliday, Community Learning Partnerships Policy Advisor

Deborah worked for the past eight years advising non-profit organizations on issues of strategic planning, leadership development, and communications. Prior to that, she served as Director of Planning and Development for Partnership Health Center in Missoula, and as Chief Aide for the Senate Minority Office of the Montana State Legislature in 1995. Halliday is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs' Master's program in Public Administration, where she focused on Social Welfare Policy. Contact Deborah at 406.444.3559 or dhalliday@mt.gov

Faith Moldan, Office Manager

Faith has a unique combination of experience in communications, politics, and community organizing. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in News Editorial (major) and Spanish (minor) from South Dakota State University in Brookings and was the Sports and Outdoors reporter and photographer for the Bigfork Eagle. She was most recently a field organizer for the Friends of Max Baucus campaign in Kalispell. Contact Faith at 406.444.5643 or fmoldan@mt.gov

Robin Demaray, Executive Assistant

Robin recently served as the administrative assistant for the State Bar of Montana. Prior to joining the State Bar, she worked as Office Manager for an education association in Washington. Demaray is a graduate of Central Washington University in Elementary Education. Please contact Robin at 406.444.5658. rdemaray@mt.gov